TRACER

McHENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(An Illinois Not-For-Profit Corp)

6422 Main Street, Union, Illinois 60180

Telephone: 815 923 2267

Editor: Ruth L. Cripe

Volume II - No. 2 Quarterly Newsletter Winter, 1976

Better late than never to acknowledge receiving the large evergreen wreath with cones and big bright red bow which was again donated by Loren Thompson of Woodstock to adorn the entrance to the Museum. Mr. Thompson has done this for several years in honor of his mother, Cora Belle Carr Thompson. We all thank you.

Boy Scouts from Troop 163, Marengo are removing rust, cleaning and repainting the post office units that came from the discontinued West McHenry Post Office. Clay Malaker is undertaking this project to earn his Merit Badge as an Eagle Scout. He is being helped by his brother Eric, Pat Sandy and Bruce Richardson, and last week Jim Georgieff joined the group. Paul Patzke and his wife of McHenry have given help in trying to set the units up as they were originally. However, the Society did not take all the units at the time of dismantling and so it cannot look exactly like the original interior of the post office.

Mrs. Avis Pankonin of Harvard, one of our new Directors, is doing volunteer work in the office every Thursday, joined by her husband, Herman, who is doing odd repair jobs around the museum. Their assistance is most welcome. Other new volunteers helping in the office are Eleanor Averill and Evalyn Johansen, both of Woodstock. They also are appreciated.

Beginning with this calendar year of 1976, the Society is going to award certificates for hours of work put in by volunteers. This may be done at the Annual Meeting or at the end of the calendar year. It has not yet been decided. Volunteers so far this month, besides those already mentioned, have been Alice and Leta Clark, Woodstock; Alice and Frances Bailey, Hebron; Sandy Walkup, his son Mike and R. A. Heiman all of Crystal Lake; Ramona Martin of Cary; and Margaret Conley of Huntley.

New Members since the last Tracer are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Johansen, Woodstock; and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Weber and family, Catherine, Beth and Jay of McHenry. We welcome you. We would like more new members; some of you have been planning to join for a long time, so DO IT NOW. Every member get a new member, as this is your McHenry County Historical Society.

Recent acquisitions - a "What's It"? from Thresile Mulvenna, Harvard. (picture appears in this issue of Tracer). Five volumes of Dr. Morgan Curtiss' records of patients, fees for calls made, etc. Dr. Curtiss practiced in Union from 1887 to 1901, and then in Marengo until his death in 1932.

We have heard that there was a stage coach stop at Chemung. Anyone knowing of this, or any other stage coach stops in the county, please let the Society know as we are trying to build up our archives. Also for anyone having had relatives that made the trip to California during the Gold Rush days. We have a few names gleaned from letters, histories, etc., but we know our file is not complete. We would like information regarding Underground Railway stops. We have heard conflicting stories of such stops in the county as well as stories of chapters of the Ku Klux Klan organized in the County. We know of several meetings held but would like to know if there were separate chapters in the several communities.

Any reader of the Tracer having interesting anecdotes, humorous incidents, or memories of events they witnessed, such as fires, storms, tornadoes, etc., please send them in to the Society. Don't wait until "tomorrow", do it TODAY.

Would you like to have your Society start a Pioneer Club? Des Plaines Historical Society has done this. Anyone who was born 75 years or more ago in the County, or who has lived in the County continuously for 75 years would be eligible. We would issue a Certificate testifying to the fact you are a Pioneer. Let us hear from you.

We are seeking pictures of the Union School (now the Museum) before the additions were built in 1928 and 1948. When were inside toilets put in? The picture is needed for a project in relation to the Bicentennial being done by James Pearson, Art Teacher at Woodstock High School. The picture will be returned if desired.

Your President, Dorothy W. McEachren, returning from a trip East last Fall passed through the Village of Chemung, New York. Settlers of our Chemung area came from there. It is now by-passed by a super highway about 500 yards from the original main street. We back-tracked and went through the village on the main street which was a military road used during the revolution and has a sign to that effect. We took pictures and if anyone from the Chemung area, or elsewhere, would like to see them, call the Museum.

The McHenry County Historical Society has been left a legacy of Ten Thousand Dollars ($10,000.00) by the will of Floyd E. Eckert, well known Woodstock attorney who passed away in 1971. Mr. Eckert was on our first Board of Directors and a most enthusiastic member in organizing the Society and "selling" it to others. He was a collector of Lincolniana and has previously given us a large framed lithograph of President Lincoln holding a cabinet meeting in the White House, which now hangs in the School Room of the Museum.

With this gift we are naming the Exhibit Hall in his honor and a plaque will be put on the wall for all to see. We have used the money to pay off the outstanding loans that the Society had made in order to renovate the old Union School at Union, Illinois, into the Museum it is today.

When the Society needed money we approached the sixteen banks and 6 savings and loan associations in McHenry County and asked that each loan us $2,000.00. Of the twenty-two institutions, thirteen responded. All agreed that 7½% interest should be paid over a period of five years - to March of 1977. Following are the institutions that responded, listed alphabetically:

Banks -
- Cary State Bank
- First National Bank of Crystal Lake
- First National Bank of Woodstock
- Harvard State Bank
- Marengo State Bank
- State Bank of Harvard
- State Bank of Huntley
- State Bank of Richmond
- State Bank of Union
- State Bank of Woodstock

Savings and Loan Associations -
- First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Woodstock
- Grove Savings & Loan Association
- Marengo Federal Savings & Loan Association

Of the above thirteen institutions, the following gave the following gifts to the Society and have plates so inscribed on plaques hanging on a wall in the Museum. Listed alphabetically -

Cary State Bank	$ 1,000.00
First National Bank of Woodstock	300.00
State Bank of Harvard	50.00
State Bank of Huntley	1,000.00
State Bank of Richmond	2,000.00
State Bank of Union	1,000.00
State Bank of Woodstock	300.00

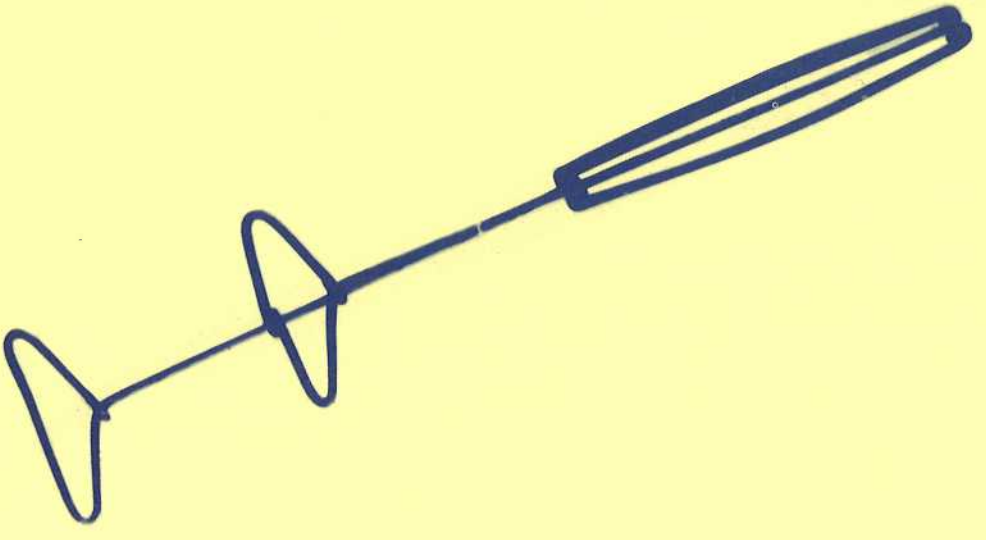
The McHenry County Historical Society is most grateful for the support and encouragement of the banks and savings and loan associations, loaning the infant Society the money which enabled us to go ahead and build a Museum. If it hadn't been for their faith in the project we might still be without a Museum.

The Society would still welcome sponsors for the "Professional Room" which contains artifacts, uniforms, clothing, dental chair and equipment, doctors' instruments, law library, business ledgers and records, war library and pictures of men from McHenry County. A sponsor for the "Ladies' Fashions Room" would also be welcomed. The McHenry County Realtors have sponsored the "School Room" and have a plaque on the wall to that effect. These three rooms are on the second floor of the Museum.

On the first floor the "Music Room" was sponsored in memory of Claude and Delia Colby and has a plaque on the wall. The "Exhibit Hall" has been named in honor of Floyd E. Eckert. That leaves the "Office" which would like a sponsor too.

Does anyone recognize this school class? What school? Who was the teacher? When taken?

This is the "What's It". It is 12½" overall, with two 2½" wide handles. The lower handle has a strong tension and when pulled up, the four steel bands expand to 3" in diameter. What was this used for? How old would it be?



Information is wanted regarding family of P. S. Crawford, Seneca Township, Section 26, who invented the automatic gate. We need this information for a Bicentennial program.

We would also like some information regarding George Stevens of Ringwood, inventor of a corn husker.

Does anyone know of a Lafe Van Theusen of Crystal Lake, who was a detective for the Chicago Northwestern Railroad and an amateur sleight of hand performer who claimed he had only to see a trick three times and he could perform it?

For Sale - Trade - Or ?? -

Painted white trim from pre-Civil War house, two double arches and pendants - came from the Harley Dietz house on Grant Hwy. (Route 20) west of Marengo.

A number of school desks at $5.00 each, from early 1930's.

Anyone fixing up a summer home who could use white, cast-iron porcelain sinks, toilets, urinal or drinking fountain, call the Museum.

We still a few green and black, slate, blackboards. Small $5.00. Large $10.00

Bicentennial Items for Museum Collection -

The Society is collecting items related to the Bicentennial - coins, calendars, plates, mugs, paper weights, medallions, etc. We have a plate on exhibit from Woodstock, a mug from Huntley, stamp covers from the Freedom Train, etc. Please keep us in mind after 1976 is over and donate items you have purchased, for our permanent collection. We would like to borrow them for our July 4, 1976 opening.

More recent acquisitions - From Mrs. Maynard Howell of Woodstock. A 60"x82" patchwork quilt made by relatives and friends living on Dean Street and Jefferson Street (Circa 1870-1880). Each square of quilt has a name on it. Put together by Amy L. Brink, grandmother of Mrs. Howell.

From Margaret Stone, Woodstock. A broom from her father's broom factory, corner of Madison and Church Streets in Woodstock. Before starting the broom factory, her father Charles A.Stone had a saloon - Crystal Palace - where Barber Shop is now. Broom was made in 1914-1915.

Another "What's It" - from Mr. & Mrs. Roy E. Thomas of Marengo. He found it in the basement of house he purchased about 40 years ago. Handle is stained and polished wood. The working end is pewter, with sort of claw like end on top. Overall length 12 inches. I took it to the Chicago Historical Society and it was examined by persons in eight different departments and they have no idea what it could be. Could anyone throw any light on this? If so please call the Museum.

Following is list of members and friends of the McHenry County Historical Society who have volunteered to help when we were ready for them. I am only listing names, as it is a long list but we have your telephone numbers and addresses. Some VOLUNTEERED in 1964, up to this year of 1976. NOW IS WHEN YOU ARE NEEDED, so we can have a wonderful Grand Opening on July 4, 1976. We want to have the Museum open before July 4th, and with YOUR HELP IT CAN BE DONE. If your name is on this list call the Museum - 923 2267; Dorothy McEachren - 338 1985 - Ruth Cripe - 923 4105. Do not wait to call until the day you are coming, but call AT ONCE and make a date. We are depending on YOU. We will be glad to have you bring a friend. Names are listed alphabetically.

Al's Welding Service
*BAILEY, Alice
BAILEY, Frances
BAKER, William
BAKER, James
BERENZ, Mrs. Henry
BERRINGER, Al
BERTRAM, Lucille K.
BOLLENSEN, Richard F.
BOPPART, John
BOTKIN, John
CERNOCKY, Louis
*CLARK, Alice
*CLARK, Leta
CLEMENS, Ray
*COLVER, Alice
CONLEY, Margaret
COSMAN, Robert L.
CRIPE, Otis E.
*CRIPE, Ruth L.
CROWLEY, Frances
CUNNINGHAM, Lisa
CUNNINGHAM, Mrs. William
CURRAN, Blanche
*DANNER, Gwendolyn
ELDREDGE, Charles
EMERSON, T. L.
ERICKSEN, Beverly
ERNESTI, Lawrence
FABOS, Dorothy
FLANDERS, Mildred
*FIKE, Nancy
FIKE, Stephen
FLEMING, Mrs. William Sr.
FORCE, Laura
FREY, Catherine
GARCIA, John
HAGE, Carrie
*HALE, Hamilton
HAMILTON, Mrs. P. A.(Marilyn)
*HANSEN, Robert
HILDEBRAND, Donald L.
HOFFMAN, Richard B.
HOWELL, Mrs. Maynard P.(Ida)
JOHNSON, Jeff V.
JURS, Thomas
KACER, George W.
Kelley, Mrs. Theodore
KELLY, Mrs. Richard C.(Diane)
KELLY, Raymond J.
*KIMURA, Shuji
KITTREDGE, Fred
KRAMBE, Mrs.
KRUSE, Mrs. J. Wallace
LEVERNIER, Valerie
LILLEGARD, Carolyn
LOFGREN, Gregory J.
LUNDGREN, Mrs. Lillian
MAIDAK, Alvin
*MARLOWE, Henry
MARSH, Evie
MARTIN, Ramona
McARDLE, Mrs. Robert P.
McILRATH, Anne
McNAMARA, J. Burk
MEEHAM, Elsa F.
MEEHAM, Mrs. T. J.
MICHELS, Mrs. Ruth J.
MIKYSKA, Richard J.
MILLER, Mrs. Anna Z.
MORITZ, Marie
MOYLAN, Mrs. William (Sue)
*MULVENNA, Thresile
MUZZY, Mrs. Francis (Mary)
NEFF, John
*NELSON, Chester I.
NICHOLS, Charles H.
NICHOLS, Robert
NICHOLS, Thomas
*NORTHROP, Dorothy
*OBERG, Betty
OLESON, Sharon
OLINGER, Martha
*PAGLES, Myrtle
*PANKONIN, Avis
PANKONIN, Herman
PERKINS, Gladys A.
PERRY, Vera
RATH, Jerry W.
RISTO, Mrs. David G.(Charlotte)
SATORIUS, Jack W.
SEYLLER, Mrs. Maurice (Olive)
SISSON, Clarence
SMITH, Mrs. Hubert B.(Jeanette)
SWANSON, Douglas
TAMMEUS, Mrs. W. H. (Bertha)
THOMAS, Everett
THOMSEN, Agnes
TONYAN, James
TURPIN, Joyce
UEHLE, Mrs. Jean
VOGEL, Mrs. Harold (Clara)
*WALGENBACH, Audrey
*WALKUP, Sanford
*WHITING, Lavern
WILABY, Del
WILCOX, Miss Alice
*WILLIAMS, W. Patrick
WOOSLEY, Mrs. James

* - Officers & Directors.

Many of the above listed persons have been very helpful in previous years and their work has been appreciated. Also this list was compiled last Fall and some have and are helping at the present time. But we still need YOU in the next few months. If you haven't been to the Museum recently, call the Museum and make a date to come and look at the difference since the renovation of the second floor has been completed. You may see something that should be done that you did not list on your Volunteer sheet and would like to do now.

If your name is NOT on this list, NOW IS THE TIME TO VOLUNTEER; call and let us know what days, hours, etc., that you could make it regularly for the next few months. If you are interested to be a HOST, HOSTESS, GUIDE, after the Museum is open, you will have to come and "get acquainted" with the displays so that you can take a tour group through the museum and answer questions that will be asked. WE NEED YOU NOW!

From Mrs. Gladys Ambrose of Elgin, Illinois. Model #2 - Oliver Typewriter - manufactured between 1902 and 1905. This will go with our interesting collection of many different models of Oliver Typewriters. This is the oldest model we have. Does anyone have Model #1? It was a little smaller than Model #2. Call the Museum if you have any model you would like to donate, if we do not already have it.

McHenry County Historical Society
Box 434 - 6422 Main Street
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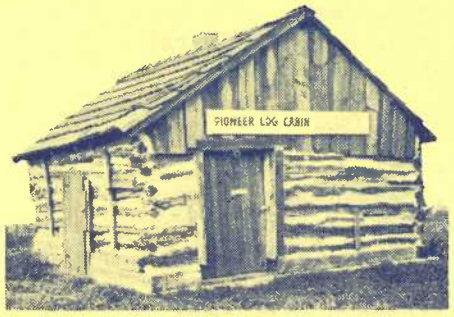

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